



**Stone Bay School**

Stone Bay School  
70 Stone Road  
Broadstairs  
Kent  
CT10 1EB

Headteacher: Jane Hatwell  
Telephone: 01843 863 421

Email:  
office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk

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## Information for Parents and Carers: New Notification Process for Restrictive Interventions

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Stone Bay School, our commitment is simple: "Getting it right for every pupil."

We know that every child is unique. We also understand that many of our pupils communicate their needs, emotions and feelings through their behaviour, particularly at times when they may feel overwhelmed, anxious, frustrated or distressed.

Our role is to understand what a pupil is communicating, respond with compassion and skill, and provide the support they need to feel safe, regulated and successful.

To do this, all staff are trained in PROACT SCIPr-UK (Positive Range of Options to Avoid Crisis and Use Therapy – Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention). This approach focuses on understanding behaviour, building positive relationships, preventing difficulties from escalating and supporting pupils in the least restrictive way possible.

Every day, our staff successfully support pupils using proactive strategies such as reassurance, communication support, sensory regulation, environmental adjustments, offering choices, providing space, and helping pupils access activities or people that help them feel calm and safe.

In the overwhelming majority of situations, these strategies are all that is needed.

### What is a restrictive intervention?

The term *restrictive intervention* covers a range of measures that may be used to keep a pupil or others safe when there is an immediate risk of harm.

A restrictive intervention is only ever used when other supportive approaches have been unsuccessful, or when staff need to act quickly to prevent someone being hurt.

Examples may include:

- Guiding a pupil away from danger.
- Supporting a pupil to move to a safer space.
- Using an approved physical intervention to prevent injury.

*"Getting it right for every pupil"*

- In exceptional circumstances, providing a supervised space away from others while a pupil is experiencing a high level of distress.

For example, a pupil may spend a short period of time in a classroom garden or another safe area with a trusted member of staff nearby and observing them at all times. This is not a punishment. It is a supportive safety measure that allows the pupil time and space to recover while ensuring that everyone remains safe.

Any restrictive intervention:

- Is only used by appropriately trained staff.
- Is never used as a punishment.
- Uses the least restrictive option available.
- Lasts only for the shortest time necessary.
- Is carefully recorded, reviewed and monitored.

Our aim is always to reduce the need for restrictive interventions and to support pupils in ways that preserve their dignity, wellbeing and independence.

### **Why are we writing to you?**

The Department for Education has introduced new guidance requiring schools to notify parents when a significant restrictive intervention has been used.

To ensure that families receive this information promptly and consistently, Stone Bay School will shortly be introducing an automated email notification system.

We wanted to explain this process in advance, so that if you receive one of these emails in the future, you understand what it means and why it has been sent.

### **What information will I receive?**

If a significant restrictive intervention has been used to support your child, you will receive an automated email within 24 hours of the incident.

The email will include:

- The date and time of the incident.
- Why the intervention was necessary.
- The type of intervention used.
- The approximate duration.
- Information about any injuries, where applicable.

Please note that these emails may be sent at different times of the day depending on when an incident occurred and when it was recorded.

### **What happens after an incident?**

Whenever a restrictive intervention is used, our work does not stop there.



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The pupil is supported to recover and return to a calm and regulated state. Staff reflect on the incident, consider what may have contributed to it, and review what support was most effective.

Where appropriate, we will review a pupil's Wellbeing Plan and work with families and professionals to identify any adjustments that may help prevent similar situations in the future.

Every incident is viewed as an opportunity to learn more about how we can better support the individual needs of the pupil.

### **We are here to support you too**

We appreciate that receiving an email about a restrictive intervention may feel unsettling.

Please be reassured that these interventions are uncommon and are only used when absolutely necessary to maintain safety. Receiving a notification does not mean that your child is in trouble, nor does it mean that they have done something wrong. More often, it reflects a moment when they needed additional support to stay safe.

The automated email is intended to keep you informed and does not replace personal communication. If you would like to discuss an incident in more detail, please contact the school office and we will arrange for you to have a meeting or telephone call with your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We are proud of the trusting relationships we build with our pupils and families, and we remain committed to working in partnership with you to ensure every child receives the understanding, care and support they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hatwell  
Headteacher  
Stone Bay School

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